

Application No. 10/654,783

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10-12 and 17-21 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 7, 12 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,279,496 to Silverberg. Claim 2 has been canceled. The remaining rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, which the Examiner has said would be allowable if written in independent form. Therefore, claim 1 should be allowed. Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and therefore should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15, which the Examiner has said would be allowable if written in independent form. Therefore, claim 12 should be allowed.

In Claim 17, Applicants recite a photoreceptor module. The module includes a plurality of backing members, a photoreceptor belt that wraps around the backing members, and a lever for simultaneously retracting multiple backing members. The backing members are retractable such that the shape of the belt deforms enough to ease the movement of the module between surrounding modules.

Claim 17 as amended should be allowed as the Examiner has not established that Silverberg anticipates claim 17 as amended. To establish anticipation, the prior art reference must include each and every element of the claim. The Examiner has not shown where Silverberg discloses a lever for simultaneously retracting multiple backing members. Therefore, claim 17 should be allowed over Silverberg.

Claims 8, 10, 11 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 USC § 1012(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,243,384 to Everdyke et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In claim 8, Applicants recite a method for detensioning a photoreceptor belt that includes simultaneously retracting multiple backing members located on a photoreceptor

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module, and wherein a tension roller deforms the shape of the belt when the backing members are retracted.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9, which the Examiner has said would be allowable if written in independent form. Therefore, claim 8 should be allowed. Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 8 and therefore should be allowed if claim 8 is allowed.

In Claim 17, Applicants recite a photoreceptor module. The module includes a plurality of backing members, a photoreceptor belt that wraps around the backing members, and a lever for simultaneously retracting multiple backing members. The backing members are retractable such that the shape of the belt deforms enough to ease the movement of the module between surrounding modules.

Claim 17 should be allowed as the Examiner has not established that Everdyke, et al. anticipates claim 17. To establish anticipation, the prior art reference must include each and every element of the claim. The Examiner has not shown where the Everdyke et al. reference discloses a lever for simultaneously retracting multiple backing members. (While not present in claim 17 as filed, these limitations were previously found in claims 18 and 19.) The passage cited by the Examiner appears to disclose a lever for moving a single roller to detension a belt for removal. Therefore, the Examiner has not shown that the Everdyke et al. reference anticipates claim 17 and claim 17 should be allowed.

Claims 20-21 depend from claim 17 and therefore should be allowed if claim 17 is allowed.

Claim Objections

Claims 3-6, 9 and 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 3 and 15 have been canceled. The elements of claim 3 have been incorporated into claim 1 and the elements of claim 15 have been incorporated into claim 12. Claims 4-6 now depend from amended claim 1 and claims

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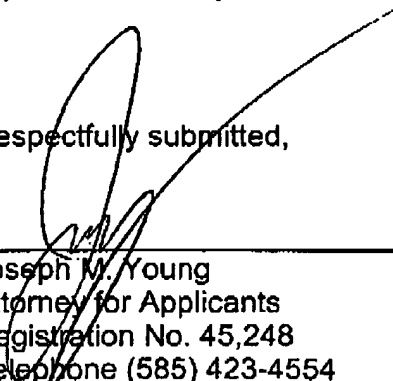
13, 14, and 16 depend from amended claim 12. Therefore claims 4-6, 13, 14, and 16 should be allowed along with claims 1 and 12.

Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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